

REMARKS

The Examiner has issued a restriction requirement with regard to the instant application. The Examiner requires election of one of Group I, claims 1-25, 51-53 and Group II, claims 26-50. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that Groups I and II are distinct inventions in that they are related as process and apparatus for practicing the process and that the process can be practiced by hand. The Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement is improper. The processes recited in claims 1-25, 51-53 and the medium recited in claims 26-50 are sufficiently linked as to form a single inventive concept in that both are connected in design and operation, i.e., the medium, as claimed, is specifically designed to perform the processes recited in claims 1-25, 51-53 (Rule 141(b)(2); MPEP 806.05(e)). Accordingly, the claims of Group II are not 'distinct' from the claims of Group I and the restriction is, therefore, improper. Reconsideration of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

The requirement for restriction being the only issue raised in the present Office Action, this paper is fully responsive to the same. The Applicants hereby reserve the right to file a divisional application for any non-elected subject matter in this application.

In the event the Examiner has any queries regarding the presently submitted response, the undersigned respectfully requests the courtesy of a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention. If there are any associated or additional charges with respect to this Response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-0150 maintained by Applicants' Assignee.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERTO AYALA ET AL..

CANTOR COLBURN LLP
Applicants' Attorneys

By: Marisa J. Dubuc
Marisa J. Dubuc
Registration No. 46,673
Customer No. 23413

Date: July 12, 2004
Address: 55 Griffin Road South, Bloomfield, CT 06002
Telephone: (860) 286-2929